

II. REMARKS

This response is made to the Final Office Action mailed March 14, 2005.

In the subject Final Office Action: (1) Claims 13-14 and 19-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,387,389 (CATALANOTTI et al; (2) Claims 1-6 and 8-12 were allowed; and, (3) Claims 15-18 were objected to as containing allowable subject matter but depending upon a rejected base claim.

By the present amendment, applicant has cancelled Claim 17, without prejudice, amended Claims 8 and 17 and added new Claims 21 and 22. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested, because this amendment places the application into condition for immediate allowance or, in the alternative, narrows the issues on appeal.

The Examiner had indicated in the subject Office Action, that the subject matter of Claims 15-18 was allowable, but that those claims were rejected on technical grounds as depending upon a rejected base claims. Applicant has cancelled Claim 17 and included that subject matter into Claim 13. Accordingly, independent Claim 13 is now allowable, as are its dependent claims, 14-16 and 18-20, which allowance is respectfully requested.

New Claim 21 is a combination of Claim 13 and Claim 15, while new Claim 22 is a combination of Claim 13 and Claim 16. Claims 15 and 16 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, and hence these two new claims should be immediately allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now patentably define over the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: September 22, 2005

By: Thomas D. Paulius

Thomas D. Paulius
Registration No. 30,792

Thomas D. Paulius
Patent Attorney
8224 Red Oak Lane
Orland Park, Illinois 60462
(708)-349-9283